

# A Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church

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## First Sunday of Advent

November 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022



*By Bryson Graham*

The season of Advent is about waiting for the coming of the Lord. We wait for Christ's arrival that happened two thousand years ago and for the arrival that is yet to occur. We journey toward Bethlehem with holy anticipation to meet the newborn king in the manger. **Our bulletin covers for this season were drawn by young artists of the church. May their depictions of the nativity bring you joy this Advent season!**

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### ***To the parents of young children:***

*God put the wiggle in children, don't feel like you have to suppress it in God's house - all are welcome! If you need to bring your child out of the service, the nursery is open for you with a TV in it streaming worship.*

+ indicates please stand as you are able

Prelude

*Emmanuel  
Wait For the Lord*

W&P #36  
ELW #262

Welcome

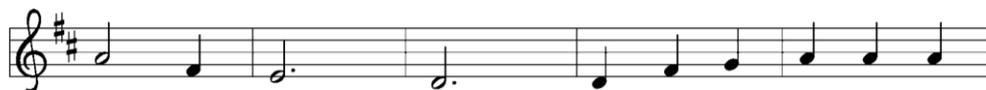
+ Gathering Hymn

*I Want to Walk as Child of the Light*

ELW #815



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,  
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

+ Advent Greeting

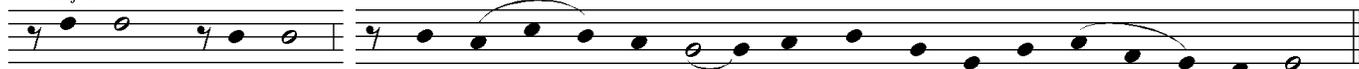
Children: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

+ Hymn

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

ELW #257

*Refrain*



Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

## + Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.

**All: Blessed be God's name forever. Amen.**

Pastor: Beloved, now is the time to wake from sleep. Let us confront our sins, and confess them to the one who is merciful and just. God of new beginnings,

**All: we confess that we have not welcomed your holy reign. We have strayed from your paths. We prepare for war instead of peace. We dishonor one another and your creation. Purify us with your refining fire and set us again on your way of love, that we may bear fruit worthy of repentance, and welcome your coming among us. Amen.**

Pastor: People of God, a new thing is growing in our midst, a tender branch, a living sign. By water and the Spirit you are joined to this wonder. You have put on + Christ, and your sins have been washed away. Rejoice in the way of the Lord.

**All: Amen.**

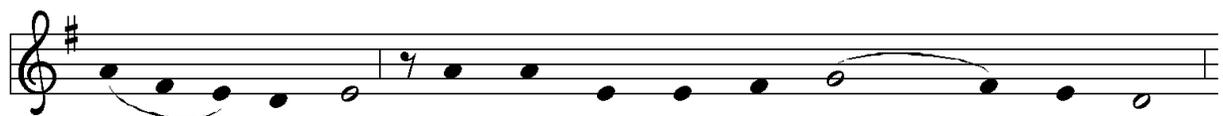
## + Kyrie

### *O Come O Come Emmanuel*

ELW #257



1 O come, O come, Em - man - u - el, and ran - som cap - tive  
2 O come, O Wis - dom from on high, em - brac - ing all things



Is - ra - el, that mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here  
far and nigh: in strength and beau - ty come and stay;



un - til the Son of God ap - pear.  
teach us your will and guide our way. Re-joyce! Re-joyce!



Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

+ Greeting

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

+ Prayer of the Day

Leader: Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come.

**All: By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

The Merlin Family

Children's Message

Hymn

*This is the Day*

*This is the day, this is the day  
that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made;  
we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it.  
This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.  
This is the day, this the day that the Lord has made.*

First Reading - Isaiah 2:1-5

A reading from Isaiah.

<sup>1</sup>The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.  
<sup>2</sup>In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. <sup>3</sup>Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths."  
For out of Zion shall go forth instruction, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. <sup>4</sup>He shall judge between the nations, and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. <sup>5</sup>O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

Leader: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

Psalm – **Psalm 122** (*read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup>I was glad when they <sup>1</sup>said to me,  
“Let us go to the house <sup>1</sup>of the LORD.”  
<sup>2</sup>**Now our <sup>1</sup>feet are standing  
within your gates, <sup>1</sup>O Jerusalem.**  
<sup>3</sup>Jerusalem is built <sup>1</sup>as a city  
that is at unity <sup>1</sup>with itself;  
<sup>4</sup>**to which the tribes go up, the tribes <sup>1</sup>of the LORD,  
the assembly of Israel, to praise the name <sup>1</sup>of the LORD.**  
<sup>5</sup>For there are the <sup>1</sup>thrones of judgment,  
the thrones of the <sup>1</sup>house of David.  
<sup>6</sup>**Pray for the peace <sup>1</sup>of Jerusalem:**  
“**May they pros- <sup>1</sup>per who love you.**  
<sup>7</sup>Peace be with- <sup>1</sup>in your walls  
and quietness with- <sup>1</sup>in your towers.  
<sup>8</sup>**For the sake of my kindred <sup>1</sup>and companions,  
I pray for <sup>1</sup>your prosperity.**  
<sup>9</sup>Because of the house of the <sup>1</sup>LORD our God,  
I will seek to <sup>1</sup>do you good.”

Second Reading – **Romans 13:11-14**

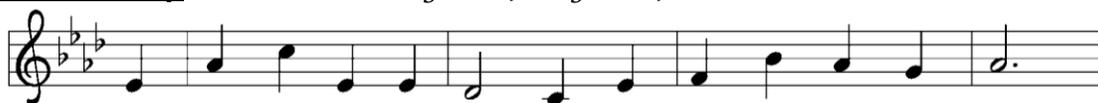
A reading from Romans.

<sup>11</sup>Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; <sup>12</sup>the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; <sup>13</sup>let us live honorably as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. <sup>14</sup>Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Leader: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**





1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;  
 2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the bride - groom near;  
 3 The saints, who here in pa - tience their cross and suf - f'ring bore,  
 4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.  
 go forth as he ap - proach - es with al - le - lu - ias clear.  
 shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.  
 a - rise, O Sun so longed for, o'er this be - night - ed sphere.



The bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.  
 The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.  
 A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb they shall be - hold;  
 With hearts and hands up - lift - ed, we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.  
 A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the bride - groom is at hand.  
 in tri - umph cast be - fore him their di - a - dems of gold.  
 the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free!

+ Nicene Creed

Leader: Gathered into one body, we profess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.

**All: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

+ Prayers of Intercession

Leader: As we prepare for the fullness of Christ's presence, let us pray for a world that yearns for new hope.

*After each prayer petition:*

Leader: God, in your mercy, **All: hear our prayer.**

+ Sharing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**All: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

Musical Meditation      *Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning*      ACS #949

*(please stand as you are able)*

+ Offering Prayer

Leader: Eternal God,

**All: you make the desert bloom and send springs of water to thirsty ground. Receive these simple gifts of bread, wine, and money, and make us messengers of your mercy and love for all in need of your healing and justice. We ask this through Christ our Savior. Amen.**

+ The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## + Preface

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

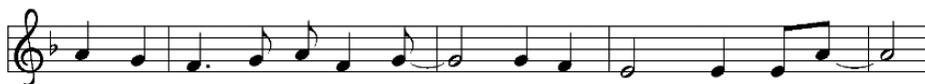
## + Holy Holy Holy

## You Are Holy

ELW #525



*Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer*  
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



*än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.*  
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



*Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,*  
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



*väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.*  
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.



*Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,*  
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



*du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!*  
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



*Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,*  
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



*ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.*  
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

## + Words of Institution

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

## + The Lord's Prayer

David Haas

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we sing the prayer that Jesus taught us.

*mp*  
Our Fa - ther in heav - en,  
hal-low-ed be your name, your king-dom come, your  
will be done on earth as in heav - en.  
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread, For - gi - ve us our  
sins as we for - give those who sin a -  
gainst us. Save us from the  
time of trial and de - liv-er us from e - vil, for the  
*broaden* king - dom, the pow'r and the glo - ry are yours, now and for  
*ritard.* ev - er. *mf*

## + Invitation to Communion

Pastor: Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**All: Amen.**

## Distribution of Holy Communion and Offering

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table, so please join us. You are invited forward to kneel or stand at the altar rail to receive communion. If you prefer to commune using the individually packaged elements, there are some on the altar rail. If you are giving an offering, you may leave it in the offering plate near the front on your way to the altar.*

*The Pastor will distribute the bread, let her know if you need a gluten-free wafer. The worship assistant will distribute the wine. Let them know if you prefer juice.*

### Lamb of God

### *Now the Feast*

*Marty Haugen*

*Congregation:*      *Congregation or Assistant:*



Lamb of God,      you take a - way the sin of      the  
you break the chains of ha - tred      and  
you are the way of jus - tice      and  
you are the way of mer - cy      and

*Congregation:*



world:      have mer - cy on us,      mer - cy on us,  
fear:  
peace:  
love.

**Final Stanza**

*Congregation or Assistant:*

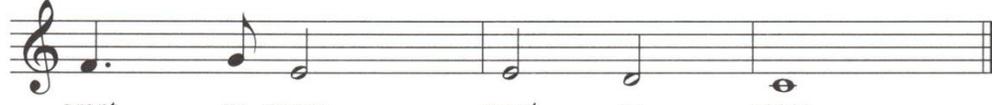


mer - cy      on      us.      Lamb of God,      you

*Congregation:*



take a - way the sins of      the world:      grant us peace,



grant      us peace,      grant      us      peace.

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.

*Refrain*  
 When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing  
 sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees. *Refrain*

*(please stand as you are able)*

**+ Prayer After Communion**

Leader: Let us pray. Faithful God,

**All: in this meal you have remembered your mercy, bringing heaven to earth in the body and blood of Christ. As we wait for the day when all your promises will be fulfilled, sustain us and strengthen us by this holy mystery. Guide us toward your promised future, coming to birth in Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

**+ Blessing**

Pastor: God the eternal Word, who dwells with us in Jesus, and who holds us in the grace of the Holy Spirit, ✚ bless you now and forever.

**All: Amen.**

+ Sending Hymn

*Come Thou Long-Expected Jesus*

ELW #254



1 Come, thou long-ex - pect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo-ple free;  
2 Born thy peo-ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king;



from our fears and sins re - lease us; let us find our rest in thee.  
born to reign in us for - ev - er, now thy gra - cious king-dom bring.



Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art,  
By thine own e - ter - nal Spir - it rule in all our hearts a - lone;



dear de - sire of ev - 'ry na - tion, joy of ev - 'ry long - ing heart.  
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

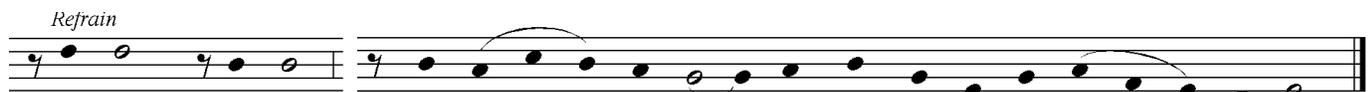
+ Advent Sending

Family: O Come, O Come, Emmanuel.

+ Advent Sending

*O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*

ELW #257



Re-joyce! Re-joyce! Em - man - u - el shall come to you, O Is - ra - el.

Leader: Go in peace, Christ is near.

All: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

*The King Shall Come*

ELW #260

The Youth Group will meet next Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> after worship!

### Save the Dates!

Dec. 10<sup>th</sup> - Family Caroling at 9:30 a.m.  
Dec. 11<sup>th</sup> - Advent Fellowship after Service

### Women of the ELCA

Our December meeting/Christmas Party will be at Sharon Johnson's house on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 pm at 4237 Freedom Drive, Charlotte. We will meet at the church about 12:30 and carpool, as Sharon doesn't have a lot of parking space at her house.

This is for all the women of the church, not just for those who regularly come to the meetings---because you are all Women of the ELCA. This will be a great chance for fellowship with friends, singing Christmas carols and games,

You are welcome to bring a small gift to exchange (less than \$5.00 value).

You can also bring a gas card for the Refugee Resettlement Project or money to be applied towards buying books for the Baptismal Bookshelf. Lunch will be potluck, so you can bring an appetizer, salad or dessert if you'd like.

*Is God a mighty fortress, solid and unchanging? Is God a mystical, unknowable force that floats around us like a vapor? How can we speak of faith if we can't even speak of God with any certainty? -Brian McLaren*



Pastor Molly's Bible study starts this coming Wednesday! There will be two ways to join - 10:00am in person in the Fellowship Hall, and 7:00pm through Zoom (link sent out on Wednesday morning). We'll be using the Animate:Faith series, and this week our topic is **God: Faith is A Quest**. Hope to see you in person or on Zoom Wednesday!

It's time to order poinsettias for Christmas Eve! Order forms are on the front table in the narthex. Poinsettias are \$16 this year, and the final day to place an order is Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.



"As a church called to welcome the stranger, and as the North Carolina Synod, we are asking you to help us care for and welcome refugee families." —Bishop Tim Smith, NC Synod

#### **Our Project:**

For our Angel Tree this year, we'll be collecting gift cards to be given to the Lutheran Services Carolinas refugee resettlement office in Asheville. LCS will then distribute the gift cards to refugee families that they work with in the area. We're specifically asking for Walmart and Shell gift cards - any amount is greatly appreciated!

We are joining congregations across North Carolina to reach a goal of 70% of the synod's congregations actively engaged in resettlement.



#### **Key Partnership:**

Lutheran Services Carolinas (LSC) has successfully resettled over 15,000 refugees into the Carolinas since 1980. Beginning in late summer 2022, LSC expects to resettle over 750 Ukrainian refugees across both North & South Carolina. This is on top of the nearly 750 Afghan & Syrian refugees welcomed in 2021.

#### **Learn more online:**

Scan QR Code to view website on your device.

[nclutheran.org/nc-bishops-challenge](https://nclutheran.org/nc-bishops-challenge)



*Please place your gift cards in the offering plate on Sunday mornings. During the week, you can place the gift cards in our locked postal mailbox in the parking lot. We need all gift cards by Sunday, December 18th to be sent to Asheville by Christmas.*

## Prayer List

*please contact our administrative assistant, Danielle ([announcementforamf@gmail.com](mailto:announcementforamf@gmail.com)), if you want to add a name to the prayer list*

**Members:** Elaine Beal, Greg Damron, Chris Dukes, Ranee Hedrick, Robin Hussey, Pastor John Merck and Nancy Merck, Barbara McGee, Betty Mick, Robin Moore, Betty Sigmon, April and Dustin Woolford, Patti Skinner, Willie Graham, and Amy Johnson

**Loved Ones:** Rondal Bass (uncle of David Bass), Aiden Chirico (Edna Chirico's grandson), Sherry Harrell (former member), Linda Holden (friend of Edna Chirico), Cadie (Jan Huskey's granddaughter), Elmer Sundlie (Karen Sundlie's father), Ronnie Thomas (father-in-law of Alyssa McGee Thomas), Juniper (Paul Lover's granddaughter), & Kimberly LaMore (daughter of Barbara and Jim McGee's close friend), Henry Coffey (Whitney Cartier's friend), Jarrett Duvall (friend of Edna Chirico), Xuan (Thih's wife), Students and Staff at Paw Creek Elementary School, & Navariz Family (Jan Huskey's family)

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### *Worship Leadership*

**Pastor** – Rev. Molly Kuekes, [pastormolly@amflc.org](mailto:pastormolly@amflc.org)

**Organist/Music Director** – Penny Damron

**Pianist/Choir Director** – Patti Skinner

**Guitarist** – Charles Burton, Paul Lover, & Timothy Gentsch

**Worship Assistant** – Chris Dukes

**Livestream Operator** – Doug Wells

**Ushers** – Lynda Geruschat & Joe Brigman

**Sound Board Operator** – Junior Bryant

**Acolyte** – Libby Merlin

**Crucifer** – Bryson Graham

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### **Come worship in-person:**

8200 McClure Circle, Charlotte, NC 28216

### **Or find us online:**

[www.amflc.org](http://www.amflc.org)



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